

REMARKS

In order to clarify the claimed invention, Applicants are amending the claims to recite a p-type electrode to make it clear that the electrode of the present application has a p-type semiconductor property. This feature is clearly supported in the present application, such as, for example, the abstract of the specification. If the electrode does not have a p-type semiconductor property, then the electrode could not perform the function of injecting holes and the desired effect of the present invention would not be achieved. Hence, this amendment is consistent with the disclosure of the present application, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and allowed.

Applicants will address each of the Examiner's objections and rejections in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to Claims 4-11 as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are amending the claims herein. Accordingly, no multiple dependent claim now depends from any other multiple dependent claim. Therefore, this objection has been overcome, and it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

The Examiner also rejects Claims 1-3 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Eda et al. (JP 360260427). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

More specifically, Eda discloses CuFeS₂ as an electrode active material. An active material has a function of bringing in/out electrons in a chemical reaction between an active material and an electrolyte in contact therewith.

In contrast, an electrode of the present and claimed invention is not an active material, i.e. the electrode does not react chemically with an electrolyte, even when the electrode is in contact with an electrolyte and a semiconductor. Instead, when in contact with an electrolyte and a semiconductor, the electrode of the present and claimed invention has a function of injecting holes into the semiconductor. Accordingly, the electrode of the present invention has a completely different function and is completely different from the electrode active material of Eda. Hence, Eda is not relevant to the claimed of the present application.

Further, the claims of the present application have now been amended to recite a “p-type electrode material.” It is respectfully submitted that this feature clearly distinguishes the claims over Eda.

Therefore, Claims 1-3 (and the rest of the pending claims) are not disclosed or suggested by Eda and are patentable thereover. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

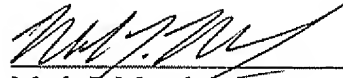
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee should be due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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